

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 ACDA-12 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 OES-07
EB-08 /105 W

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R 200734Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC 6058
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0144

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: STOBBE'S ROLE AS PRESIDENT OF THE BUNDESRAT

REF: BONN 0898

1. WE SUPPORT ENTIRELY THE RECOMMENDATIONS
IN PARA 11 OF REFTEL AS WELL AS THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY
THE US REP IN THE BONN GROUP MEETING OF JANUARY 12. WE
BELIEVE THAT STOBBE CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO EXERCISE TACT
AND DISCRETION IN HIS ACTIVITIES AS BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT
AND ACTING FRG PRESIDENT. BRITISH AND FRENCH HERE, AT
LEAST AT DEPUTY POLADS LEVEL, ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT
THAT OPPOSING BERLIN'S TURN IN THE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENCY
WOULD BE FOOLHARDY IN THE EXTREME. TO BELABOR THE OBVIOUS,
THE INTERNAL REACTION TO ANY SUCH EFFORT WOULD BE STRONGEST
HERE IN WEST BERLIN.

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2. ADDRESSEES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF
A STOBBE VISIT TO MOSCOW. STOBBE HAS TOLD COMMANDANTS AND
MINISTERS, AND HAS BEEN QUOTED IN THE PRESS, THAT HE WOULD
BE GLAD TO GO IF THE NICETIES WERE OBSERVED. IN THAT CONNEC-
TION, THE SENAT ISSUED A VERMERK DATED JANUARY 16 REPORTING
A JANUARY 6 CONVERSATION BETWEEN SOVIET CONGEN OFFICIAL
KOZOBRODOV AND PRESS SPOKESMAN SOETJE. KOZOBRODOV SAID

"HE DID NOT ENVISAGE ANY PROBLEMS IN THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S BEING LOOKED AFTER ("KONSULARISCHE BETREUUNG") BY THE GERMAN EMBASSY." KOZOBRODOV ADDED THAT THIS PROCEDURE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED BY FORMAL AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS ARE TRADITIONALLY ABLE TO BOTH INVITE AND ATTACK, A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO MOSCOW PERHAPS INCLUDING A CALL ON BREZHNEV WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE THE PROPER GROUNDLAYING FOR A SUBSEQUENT ATTACK ON STOBBE AS ACTING FRG PRESIDENT OR BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT, BUT WE DEFER TO EMBASSY MOSCOW IN THAT JUDGMENT. GEORGE

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